

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 233

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CUNNINGHAM.

Read 1st time January 22, 2009, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

0450S.011

## AN ACT

To repeal section 168.021, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to teacher certification.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 168.021, RSMo, is repealed and one new section  
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 168.021, to read as follows:

168.021. 1. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the  
2 state shall be granted as follows:

3 (1) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it:

4 (a) Upon the basis of college credit;

5 (b) Upon the basis of examination;

6 (2) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by the state  
7 board with advice from the advisory council established by section 168.015 to any  
8 individual who presents to the state board a valid doctoral degree from an  
9 accredited institution of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting  
10 association such as North Central Association. Such certificate shall be limited  
11 to the major area of postgraduate study of the holder, shall be issued only after  
12 successful completion of the examination required for graduation pursuant to  
13 rules adopted by the state board of education, and shall be restricted to those  
14 certificates established pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section;

15 (3) By the state board, which shall issue the professional certificate  
16 classification in both the general and specialized areas most closely aligned with  
17 the current areas of certification approved by the state board, commensurate with  
18 the years of teaching experience of the applicant, and based upon the following  
19 criteria:

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

20 (a) Recommendation of a state-approved baccalaureate-level teacher  
21 preparation program;

22 (b) Successful attainment of the Missouri qualifying score on the exit  
23 assessment for teachers or administrators designated by the state board of  
24 education. Applicants who have not successfully achieved a qualifying score on  
25 the designated examinations will be issued a two-year nonrenewable provisional  
26 certificate; and

27 (c) Upon completion of a background check and possession of a valid  
28 teaching certificate in the state from which the applicant's teacher preparation  
29 program was completed; [or]

30 (4) **By the state board, under rules prescribed by it, on the basis**  
31 **of a relevant bachelor's degree, or higher degree, and a passing score**  
32 **for the designated exit examination, for individuals whose academic**  
33 **degree and professional experience are suitable to provide a basis for**  
34 **instruction solely in the subject matter of banking or financial**  
35 **responsibility, at the discretion of the state board. Such certificate**  
36 **shall be limited to the major area of study of the holder and shall be**  
37 **restricted to those certificates established under subdivision (1) of**  
38 **subsection 3 of this section. Holders of certificates granted under this**  
39 **subdivision shall be exempt from the teacher tenure act under sections**  
40 **168.102 to 168.130 and each school district shall have the decision-**  
41 **making authority on whether to hire the holders of such certificates;**  
42 **or**

43 (5) By the state board, under rules and regulations prescribed by it, on  
44 the basis of certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher  
45 Excellence (ABCTE) and verification of ability to work with children as  
46 demonstrated by sixty contact hours in any one of the following areas as validated  
47 by the school principal: sixty contact hours in the classroom, of which at least  
48 forty-five must be teaching; sixty contact hours as a substitute teacher, with at  
49 least thirty consecutive hours in the same classroom; sixty contact hours of  
50 teaching in a private school; or sixty contact hours of teaching as a  
51 paraprofessional, for an initial four-year ABCTE certificate of license to teach,  
52 except that such certificate shall not be granted for the areas of early childhood  
53 education, elementary education, or special education. Upon the completion of  
54 the requirements listed in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this subdivision, an  
55 applicant shall be eligible to apply for a career continuous professional certificate

56 under subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section:

57 (a) Completion of thirty contact hours of professional development within  
58 four years, which may include hours spent in class in an appropriate college  
59 curriculum;

60 (b) Validated completion of two years of the mentoring program of the  
61 American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence or a district mentoring  
62 program approved by the state board of education;

63 (c) Attainment of a successful performance-based teacher evaluation; and

64 (d) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program.

65 2. All valid teaching certificates issued pursuant to law or state board  
66 policies and regulations prior to September 1, 1988, shall be exempt from the  
67 professional development requirements of this section and shall continue in effect  
68 until they expire, are revoked or suspended, as provided by law. When such  
69 certificates are required to be renewed, the state board or its designee shall grant  
70 to each holder of such a certificate the certificate most nearly equivalent to the  
71 one so held. Anyone who holds, as of August 28, 2003, a valid PC-I, PC-II, or  
72 continuous professional certificate shall, upon expiration of his or her current  
73 certificate, be issued the appropriate level of certificate based upon the  
74 classification system established pursuant to subsection 3 of this section.

75 3. Certificates of license to teach in the public schools of the state shall  
76 be based upon minimum requirements prescribed by the state board of  
77 education. The state board shall provide for the following levels of professional  
78 certification: an initial professional certificate and a career continuous  
79 professional certificate.

80 (1) The initial professional certificate shall be issued upon completion of  
81 requirements established by the state board of education and shall be valid based  
82 upon verification of actual teaching within a specified time period established by  
83 the state board of education. The state board shall require holders of the  
84 four-year initial professional certificate to:

85 (a) Participate in a mentoring program approved and provided by the  
86 district for a minimum of two years;

87 (b) Complete thirty contact hours of professional development, which may  
88 include hours spent in class in an appropriate college curriculum, **or for holders**  
89 **of a certificate under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this section, an**  
90 **amount of professional development in proportion to the certificate**  
91 **holder's hours in the classroom, if the certificate holder is employed**

92 **less than full-time;** and

93 (c) Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program;

94 (2) (a) The career continuous professional certificate shall be issued upon  
95 verification of completion of four years of teaching under the initial professional  
96 certificate and upon verification of the completion of the requirements articulated  
97 in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subdivision (1) of this subsection or paragraphs  
98 (a), (b), (c), and (d) of subdivision [(4)] (5) of subsection 1 of this section.

99 (b) The career continuous professional certificate shall be continuous  
100 based upon verification of actual employment in an educational position as  
101 provided for in state board guidelines and completion of fifteen contact hours of  
102 professional development per year which may include hours spent in class in an  
103 appropriate college curriculum. Should the possessor of a valid career continuous  
104 professional certificate fail, in any given year, to meet the fifteen-hour  
105 professional development requirement, the possessor may, within two years, make  
106 up the missing hours. In order to make up for missing hours, the possessor shall  
107 first complete the fifteen-hour requirement for the current year and then may  
108 count hours in excess of the current year requirement as make-up hours. Should  
109 the possessor fail to make up the missing hours within two years, the certificate  
110 shall become inactive. In order to reactivate the certificate, the possessor shall  
111 complete twenty-four contact hours of professional development which may  
112 include hours spent in the classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within  
113 the six months prior to or after reactivating his or her certificate. The  
114 requirements of this paragraph shall be monitored and verified by the local school  
115 district which employs the holder of the career continuous professional certificate.

116 (c) A holder of a career continuous professional certificate shall be exempt  
117 from the professional development contact hour requirements of paragraph (b) of  
118 this subdivision if such teacher has a local professional development plan in place  
119 within such teacher's school district and meets two of the three following criteria:

120 a. Has ten years of teaching experience as defined by the state board of  
121 education;

122 b. Possesses a master's degree; or

123 c. Obtains a rigorous national certification as approved by the state board  
124 of education.

125 4. Policies and procedures shall be established by which a teacher who  
126 was not retained due to a reduction in force may retain the current level of  
127 certification. There shall also be established policies and procedures allowing a

128 teacher who has not been employed in an educational position for three years or  
129 more to reactivate his or her last level of certification by completing twenty-four  
130 contact hours of professional development which may include hours spent in the  
131 classroom in an appropriate college curriculum within the six months prior to or  
132 after reactivating his or her certificate.

133           5. The state board shall, upon an appropriate background check, issue a  
134 professional certificate classification in the areas most closely aligned with an  
135 applicant's current areas of certification, commensurate with the years of  
136 teaching experience of the applicant, to any person who is hired to teach in a  
137 public school in this state and who possesses a valid teaching certificate from  
138 another state **or certification under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of this**  
139 **section**, provided that the certificate holder shall annually complete the state  
140 board's requirements for such level of certification, and shall establish policies by  
141 which residents of states other than the state of Missouri may be assessed a fee  
142 for a certificate license to teach in the public schools of Missouri. Such fee shall  
143 be in an amount sufficient to recover any or all costs associated with the issuing  
144 of a certificate of license to teach. The board shall promulgate rules to authorize  
145 the issuance of a provisional certificate of license, which shall allow the holder  
146 to assume classroom duties pending the completion of a criminal background  
147 check under section 168.133, for any applicant who:

- 148           (1) Is the spouse of a member of the armed forces stationed in Missouri;  
149           (2) Relocated from another state within one year of the date of  
150 application;  
151           (3) Underwent a criminal background check in order to be issued a  
152 teaching certificate of license from another state; and  
153           (4) Otherwise qualifies under this section.

154           6. The state board may assess to holders of an initial professional  
155 certificate a fee, to be deposited into the excellence in education revolving fund  
156 established pursuant to section 160.268, RSMo, for the issuance of the career  
157 continuous professional certificate. However, such fee shall not exceed the  
158 combined costs of issuance and any criminal background check required as a  
159 condition of issuance. Applicants for the initial ABCTE certificate shall be  
160 responsible for any fees associated with the program leading to the issuance of  
161 the certificate, but nothing in this section shall prohibit a district from developing  
162 a policy that permits fee reimbursement.

163           7. Any member of the public school retirement system of Missouri who

164 entered covered employment with ten or more years of educational experience in  
165 another state or states and held a certificate issued by another state and  
166 subsequently worked in a school district covered by the public school retirement  
167 system of Missouri for ten or more years who later became certificated in  
168 Missouri shall have that certificate dated back to his or her original date of  
169 employment in a Missouri public school.

170 8. The provisions of subdivision [(4)] (5) of subsection 1 of this section, as  
171 well as any other provision of this section relating to the American Board for  
172 Certification of Teacher Excellence, shall terminate on August 28, 2014.

Unofficial ✓

Bill

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